



Harlequin Happenings

Newsletter of the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society (OPAS)

www.olympicpeninsulaudubon.org (www.olybird.org)

Clallam County, Washington

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

Issue 4 July-August 2013

*"Promoting Birding and Conservation
as Community Educators, Volunteers, and Stewards"*

OPAS Field Trips in July and August

by Bob Iddins

Bird Walks

Date: Every Wed. morning; Time: 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Meet at the River Center for a lovely walk to see and hear the birds of the Dungeness riparian forest. Information from walks helps us understand the annual cycle of birds in RR Bridge Park.



Cape Flattery

Photo by Robert Hutchison

Neah Bay

Date & Time: Thursday, July 11, 2013, 9:00 am

Leader: Bob Iddins

Meeting place: Washburns Hardware Store on Hwy 112 in Neah Bay

Cost: Field trip is free; however, a Makah Nation Recreational Pass (\$10 and good for one year) is required for each vehicle. It can be purchased at Washburns.

Features: Gulls, shorebirds and raptors; newly arrived songbirds in the forest on the walk to Cape Flattery (about 1 mile). Tatoosh Island (visible from Cape Flattery) is an important breeding spot for seabirds (Common Murres, etc.).

Bring: Optics (including scopes if available), snacks, water, lunch and appropriate clothing for all kinds of weather.

Further information: Bob Iddins 360-681-2840, Cell 360-755-5945 Email- rriddins@olyopen.com

Hurricane Ridge & Obstruction Point

Date & Time: Tuesday, July 30, 2013, 9:30 am

Leader: Bill Parker

Meeting place: ONP Visitors' Center, Race Rd. south of Port Angeles.

Plan to be out until mid afternoon.

Cost: Free (Pass or admission fee required for entry into Olympic National Park!)

Features: The Hurricane Hill trail has wildflowers that attract butterflies and is a good site for ridge patrolling butterflies. If the weather cooperates, a variety of swallowtails, Parnassian, checkerspots, and blues are expected. While the birds at lower elevations are usually quiet this time of year, there are usually a few warblers on territory and singing. American Pipits and Horned Larks can usually be found on this trip. The rustle of potato chip bags at the picnic lunch usually attracts Gray Jays. Sooty Grouse hens and chicks are often found at the picnic area. Without much searching you should also find the endemic Olympic Chipmunk. After lunch, we will visit other areas.

Bring: Optics, bird, wildflower & butterfly guides, lunch, & sunscreen. Be prepared for any weather changes.

Further Information: Bill Parker 360-504-2391 Email- whparker@surfbirder.com (Continued on next page)



Hurricane Ridge

Photo by Robert Hutchison

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Purple Martins

Date & Time: Tuesday, Aug 6, 2013, 9:00 am
Leader: Ken Wiersema
Meeting place: 3 Crabs Restaurant, Sequim
Cost: Free (Discover Pass required to park here since the acquisition of the property by WDFW)
Features: A walk out on the tide flats (rubber boots might be advisable although the minus tide should allow easy access) to view nesting Purple Martins.
Bring: Optics (including scopes if available), snacks, water, and appropriate clothing for all kinds of weather.
Further information: Ken Wiersema 360-683-4763 wiersema@olympus.net

Ocean Shores

Dates: Thursday & Friday, August 22-23, 2013
Cost: Free, but participants pay for own lodging and meals.
Leader: Bob Iddins
Features: Migrating shorebirds of Grays Harbor and other Pacific Coastal spots. Rarities are always a possibility.
Bring: Optics, lunch for both days, footwear for walking, especially on beaches.
Meeting place & time: 8:30 a.m. Thursday outside the Silver King Resort, 1070 Discovery Ave SW, Ocean Shores (approx. 5 miles from center of town).
Further Information: Bob Iddins 360-681-2840 cell 360-775-5945
rriddins@olympen.com

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Conservation Matters

by Mary Porter-Solberg



Puget Sound Seabird Survey Expanded to Olympic Peninsula

Seattle Audubon's Puget Sound Seabird Survey (PSSS) is a citizen-science survey where volunteer birdwatchers gather data on seabird populations. Seattle Audubon was recently awarded an 18 month grant for expanding their PSSS to include additional sites along the Strait of Juan de Fuca and on Whidbey Island. The PSSS Expansion will survey seabird populations from Cape Flattery east to Admiralty Inlet and north to Deception Pass. This geographic area is at high risk of large and catastrophic oil spills and there is limited biological data on the birds that would be most impacted in the event of a spill. This state funding will support collection of baseline data on seabird populations in areas at higher risk of a major oil spill. The grant will also support additional training for PSSS volunteers to conduct early on-scene reconnaissance in the event of an actual oil spill.
 (Continued on next page)

OPAS has recruited over a dozen volunteers that have already participated in one of two training sessions held in June at Port Williams beach. The surveys will take place the first Saturday of each month at or near high tide from Clallam County locations of Diamond Point in the east to Cape Flattery in the west. All data from this survey will be available online along with more information at Seattle Audubon's website: <http://www.seattleaudubon.org/sas/WhatWeDo/Science/CitizenScience/PugetSoundSeabirdSurvey.aspx>

Protect Our Wild Olympics

The Olympic Peninsula's free-flowing rivers and towering ancient forests need your help. The Wild Olympics Campaign has worked to build strong local support for the first new Wilderness designations on the Olympic National Forest in nearly 30 years and the first ever Wild and Scenic River designations on the Olympic Peninsula. The Wild Olympics Legislation introduced by Senator Murray and Congressman Dicks in 2012 garnered support from more than 250 local businesses, elected officials, sportsmen, faith leaders and other stakeholders.

But there is still work to do! In order to continue to demonstrate strong support for the Wild Olympics, we need to generate thousands of additional Wild Olympics petition signatures from the 6th Congressional district in the next 6 weeks to encourage newly-elected Congressman Derek Kilmer (D-WA06) to reintroduce the Wild Olympics legislation as soon as possible.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Sign the Wild Olympics Petition Here: http://www.wildolympics.org/take_action

Share this with your friends and family. Every signature counts! For more information on the Wild Olympics Campaign visit www.wildolympics.org

2013 Clallam County Birdathon Wrapup

by Bob Boekelheide



The results are in for the 2013 International Migratory Bird Count and Clallam County Birdathon, held on May 11, 2013. Overall, it wasn't our worst year and it wasn't our best year, with a very respectable total number of species but low numbers of birds and counters.

In total, 48 participants in 35 parties counted 18,379 individual birds of 189 species (see accompanying table; *Ed. Note: Entry for "Comic" Tern, sp. means unidentified Common/Arctic Terns.*). Even though the count scored well above the average number of species for the last 20 years of our count (average species no. = 180), this year's count had the third lowest number of individual birds we have tallied on our Birdathon over the same period. It didn't come close to our record number of species (203 in 2012) or record number of individuals (33,537 in 2010).

Why such low numbers this year? First, some of our stalwart counters were not able to participate this year, so absolute numbers were low. Scott Horton, our intrepid halibut fisherman who counts pelagic birds west of La Push, couldn't get out on count day because of bad weather, but he was able to pick up several pelagic species during count week (cw). Still, despite adequate coverage of the "birdy" sections of the county, several common species tallied surprisingly low numbers this year.

For example, the following species had the lowest counts for the last 20 years, even compared with other years of comparable number of observers: Mallard, California Quail, Brandt's and Double-crested Cormorants, Northern Harrier, Hutton's Vireo, Steller's Jay, Tree and Violet-green Swallow, Bushtit, Ruby-crowned Kinglet (missed entirely!), Golden-crowned Sparrow, House Finch, and Evening Grosbeak. Should we be concerned about these species? (*Continued on next page*)

Thank You OPAS!

With the help of many OPAS members and the OPAS Board, the annual Dungeness Spring Fling has raised over \$100,000 to support River Center education programs in its first five years. This year's total is nearly \$28,000, and donations are still trickling in. Dungeness Spring Fling participants and their sponsors (including many OPAS members) raised over \$19,000 in May, and the OPAS Board also made a generous \$2,000 gift. In the next few weeks, the River Center will receive an additional \$7,000 from outstanding pledges, including an anonymous gift of \$5,000, designated for education-staff salary. To date, River Center Board members and others have contributed \$2,740 to match this extraordinary gift. We need an additional \$2,260 to reach that goal. If you'd like to help meet the \$5,000 challenge and wish to do so by check, please make your check payable to Dungeness River Audubon Center and note "Spring Fling Education Match" in the memo line.

Dungeness River Audubon Center
and the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society
Present:

Lavender Festival Weekend
Protection Island
Puffin Marine Sunset
Dinner Cruise



Friday, July 19 & Saturday, July 20
6:30 to 9 p.m.

Enjoy birding and casual, scrumptious dinner aboard the Glacier Spirit as we circumnavigate Protection Island, home to Tufted Puffins, Rhinoceros Auklets, and others. This trip leaves from John Wayne Marina, designed to see the birds as they float by the island at dusk.

Cost: \$65 per person per trip. Proceeds benefit the Educational Programs of the Dungeness River Audubon Center and Railroad Bridge Park www.DungenessRiverCenter.org
Phone 360-681-4076 or email rivercenter@olympus.net
for information and to register for a trip.

We might be able to explain decreases in some of these species by fewer counters, but some species do appear to be having an off year. For example, House Finches appear to have decreased both on our spring counts and Christmas counts for the last couple years, perhaps because of diseases that have passed through their population. Next, the spring weather has been quite fickle for aerial insectivores like swallows, with record high temperatures in the first few days of May followed by rainy and cool weather for the rest of the month. Some species seem genuinely scarce this spring, such as Northern Harriers. But is it possible that so many species realistically declined this year? Likely not, and some may have just been missed, despite our best efforts. Counts in future years will see if these trends continue.

On the opposite side, some species scored very high counts, following increases seen for some during the last Sequim-Dungeness Christmas Count, including Greater Scaup, Ruddy Duck, Bald Eagle, Marbled Murrelet, Anna's Hummingbird, and Pine Siskin. The scaup numbers are particularly good to see, since they've been declining in Clallam County through the last decade.

As always, the species count could have been higher because we missed some species that we see most years on the spring count, such as Herring and Thayer's Gulls, W. Wood-pewee, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, W. Bluebird, and Bullock's Oriole. In total, there were 27 species seen last year that we did not see this year, and only 10 species seen this year that were not seen last year.

Nearly all the unusual birds seen this year came from Denny Van Horn at Neah Bay. Denny spotted a Snowy Plover

hanging out with Semipalmated Plovers at the Waatch River mouth, along with Surfbirds and a Pectoral Sandpiper nearby. He also spotted our only Green Heron, Sandhill Cranes, Osprey, Brown Pelicans, Black-legged Kittiwakes, Mountain Bluebirds, and Willow Flycatcher. Way to go, Denny!

Next year's Birdathon once again coincides with the International Migratory Bird Day, which always occurs on the second Saturday in May. Put next year's count on your calendar right now, for May 10, 2014.

Many, many thanks to this year's exceptional Birdathon Counters:

Denny Van Horn, Nigel Ball, Jerry Freilich, Dave & Julie Jackson, Scott Gremell, Chris Tonra, John Woolley, Bill & Karen Parker, Terry Martin, Greg Haworth, Scott Gremel, J. D. Herndon, Scott Horton (cw), Michael Barry, Vince Lucas, Dan & Valerie Stahler, Sue Nattinger and Coleman Byrnes, Sherrie Rogers and Jon Purnell, Sue Chickman, Pat MacRobbie, Dow Lambert, Don Chesebro, Carlene Moberg, Kris Lether, Doris Causey, Kendra Donelson, Marie Grad, Ruth Messing, John & Diana Anderson, Carol & Bruce von Borstel, Judy & Mike Bromell, Bob Iddins, Erwin Joe Dieu, Sharman Richardson, Jean Spargo, Chuck Johnson, Jeanelle Gerber, Kathy Bush, Charlotte Watts, and Bob Boekelheide

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Results of OPAS Clallam Co. Birdathon/International Migratory Bird Count, May 11, 2013

Gr. White-fronted Goose	25	Bald Eagle	212	Ancient Murrelet	cw	American Dipper	11
Brant	564	Northern Harrier	4	Cassin's Auklet	cw	Gold-crowned Kinglet	31
Cackling Goose	17	Sharp-shinned Hawk	4	Rhinoceros Auklet	413	<u>Mountain Bluebird</u>	3
Canada Goose	173	Cooper's Hawk	9	Tufted Puffin	2	Townsend's Solitaire	2
Wood Duck	14	accipiter sp.	3	Rock Pigeon	70	Swainson's Thrush	6
Gadwall	75	Red-tailed Hawk	28	Band-tailed Pigeon	117	Hermit Thrush	18
Eurasian Wigeon	1	Buteo sp., not RTHA	1	Eur. Collared Dove	95	Am. Robin	538
American Wigeon	165	Golden Eagle	1	Mourning Dove	99	Varied Thrush	76
Mallard	239	American Kestrel	3	Barn Owl	2	European Starling	212
Blue-winged Teal	4	Merlin	3	W. Screech Owl	1	Am Pipit	35
Cinnamon Teal	2	Peregrine Falcon	2	Great Horned Owl	1	Cedar Waxwing	15
N. Shoveler	7	Virginia Rail	7	N. Pygmy Owl	2	Orange-cr. Warbler	109
N. Pintail	44	Sora	1	Barred Owl	6	Yellow Warbler	26
Green-winged Teal	20	Am. Coot	9	N. Saw-whet Owl	3	Yellow-rumped Warbler	67
Ring-necked Duck	8	Sandhill Crane	3	Vaux's Swift	11	Blk-thrted Gray Warbler	12
Greater Scaup	<u>171</u>	Black-bellied Plover	33	Anna's Hummingbird	<u>31</u>	Townsend's Warbler	64
Lesser Scaup	10	<u>Snowy Plover</u>	1	Rufous Hummingbird	123	Hermit Warbler	<u>3</u>
scaup sp.	52	Semipalmated Plover	21	hummingbird sp.	1	Hermit X Twnsnd's W.	1
Harlequin Duck	186	Killdeer	47	Belted Kingfisher	19	MacGillivray's Warbler	28
Surf Scoter	972	Black Oystercatcher	27	Red-brsted Sapsucker	17	Com. Yellowthroat	32
White-winged Scoter	174	Greater Yellowlegs	8	Downy Woodpecker	19	Wilson's Warbler	167
Black Scoter	13	Lesser Yellowlegs	2	Hairy Woodpecker	18	Western Tanager	29
Long-tailed Duck	115	Wandering Tattler	1	N. Flicker (unk. type)	23	Spotted Towhee	91
Bufflehead	208	Spotted Sandpiper	7	"Red-shafted Flicker"	27	Savannah Sparrow	114
Common Goldeneye	5	Whimbrel	69	Pileated Woodpecker	12	Fox Sparrow	2
Barrow's Goldeneye	2	Marbled Godwit	3	woodpecker sp.	1	Song Sparrow	194
Hooded Merganser	12	Black Turnstone	1	Olive-sided Flycatcher	7	White-crwnd Sparrow	156
Com. Merganser	60	<u>Surfbird</u>	8	Willow Flycatcher	1	Golden-crwnd Sparrow	19
Red-br. Merganser	40	Red Knot	2	Hammond's Flycatcher	15	Drk-eyd (Ore.) Junco	195
Ruddy Duck	<u>14</u>	Sanderling	52	Pacific-slope Flycatcher	67	Black-headed Grosbeak	65
duck sp.	1	Semipalm Sandpiper	1	<u>Empidonax</u> sp.	2	Red-winged Blackbird	265
Ring-Necked Pheasant	2	Western Sandpiper	72	W. Kingbird	1	Brewer's Blackbird	129
Ruffed Grouse	8	Least Sandpiper	20	Cassin's Vireo	1	Brown-headed Cowbird	92
Sooty Grouse	17	<u>Pectoral Sandpiper</u>	1	Hutton's Vireo	4	Purple Finch	43
California Quail	59	Dunlin	250	Warbling Vireo	30	House Finch	88
Red-throated Loon	8	Short-billed Dowitcher	5	Gray Jay	6	Red Crossbill	181
Pacific Loon	9	Long-billed Dowitcher	33	Steller's Jay	66	Pine Siskin	<u>464</u>
Common Loon	64	dowitcher sp.	2	crow sp. (Amer. & NW)	415	Am. Goldfinch	289
Pied-billed Grebe	3	Wilson's Snipe	5	Com. Raven	102	Evening Grosbeak	10
Horned Grebe	5	Red-nckd Phalarope	8	<u>Horned Lark</u>	4	House Sparrow	63
Red-necked Grebe	11	Blk-iggd Kittiwake	2	Tree Swallow	108		
Western Grebe	40	Bonaparte's Gull	2	Violet-green Swallow	277	No. parties	32-35
Black-footed Albatross	cw	Mew Gull	30	N. Rough-wgd Swallow	18	No. participants	48
Northern Fulmar	cw	Ring-billed Gull	7	Cliff Swallow	40	Hours foot	97.83
Pink-footed Shearwater	cw	California Gull	72	Barn Swallow	143	Miles foot	78.75
Sooty Shearwater	cw	Western Gull	15	swallow sp.	208	Hours car	43.9
shearwater sp.	20	Glaucous-winged Gull	538	Purple Martin	5	Miles car	475.3
Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel	cw	W. X Gl.-wng Gull	213	Black-capped Chickadee	52	Hours bicycle	0
Brown Pelican	3	Glaucous Gull	1	Chestnut-backed Chick.	110	Miles bicycle	0
Brandt's Cormorant	4	large pink-legged gull	1010	Bushitit	9	Hours boat	cw
Double-crstd Cormorant	15	Sabine's Gull	cw	Red-breastd Nuthatch	57	Miles boat	cw
Pelagic Cormorant	182	gull sp.	69	Brown Creeper	14	Hours owling	4.75
cormorant sp.	19	Caspian Tern	50	Bewick's Wren	10	Miles owling	49
Great Blue Heron	53	"Comic" Tern sp.	5	House Wren	14	Feeder hours	57.5
Green Heron	1	Common Murre	4003	Pacific Wren	69		
Turkey Vulture	45	Pigeon Guillemot	381	Marsh Wren	28	TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	18379
Osprey	1	Marbled Murrelet	107	wren sp.	2	NO. OF SPECIES	189

cw = observed during count week (3 days before to 3 days after), but not on count day

Underlined species = unusual species, recorded infrequently on count

Underlined numbers = record number of individuals for Clallam Co. Spring Bird Count

Mary Porter-Solberg Receives OPAS Conservation award for 2013

By Ken Wiersema



Photo by Ken Wiersema

Each year the Conservation Committee considers nominations of both members and others in our community who have made invaluable contributions to conserve and protect our natural environment. This year we recommended to the OPAS Board that Mary Porter-Solberg receive the award. It was presented at our June meeting by Jim Gift, the Co-Chair of the Conservation Committee, and incoming President of OPAS.

We recognized Mary for her many years of conservation and environmental advocacy in support of our Chapter and community. She tirelessly applies her thoroughly researched science knowledge, and excellent organizational skills toward leading our Chapter's Conservation Committee. She has written and co-authored numerous letters and papers expressing our position on uses of public lands, restoring habitat, and protecting endangered wildlife. For the past 2 years, she organized and managed several local research projects to monitor and count migrating Trumpeter Swans, and is now leading new work to study and document the array of seabirds along our coasts.

Mary skillfully represents our Chapter at regional and statewide Audubon meetings and is respected for her calm, thoughtful, consensus building. Her voice and writings exert invaluable impact toward coalition building among, regional Audubon Chapters and other environmental advocates, as well as influence governmental leaders. Her commitment and resolve help to retain and restore our natural world and enrich our community – She makes a difference!

Judy Mullally is the OPAS Harlequin Awardee for 2013

By Ken Wiersema

Each year past awardees, who are still active in the Chapter, receive nominations from our members for our award to recognize excellence and long-term contributions to our Chapter and its programs. This year we had a list of well deserving nominees, and from them we selected Judy Mullally to receive the award. Kendra Donelson, last year's awardee presented our 2013 Harlequin Award to Judy Mullally at the June meeting.

Judy has been a member of OPAS for over 20 years and has served the Chapter quietly and faithfully as a skilled birder, instructor for new birders, and field trip leader. She was Co-Chair of our field trip committee for many years and wrote numerous comprehensive reports on field trips and bird sightings for our newsletter. As many who join us on field trips can attest, she generously shares her knowledge of birds with new birders and those new to the Olympic Peninsula. She continues to be a reliable and dedicated trip leader for our local and regional trips, as well as leading popular trips as part of our BirdFest.

She is a mostly self-taught birder who has developed her skills in the company of many of our Chapter's most skilled bird experts. She carefully documents her bird sightings, and continues to grow her knowledge, while generously sharing her talents, thereby helping to increase the knowledge of others and to help new birders enjoy the study and identification of birds.

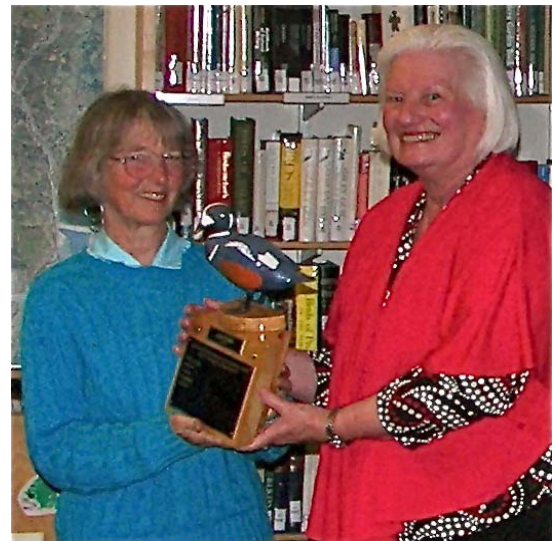


Photo by Ken Wiersema

Bird Sightings

by Denny AFMJ Van Horn

So! Let's start with the Biggies! The code 5's: Calliope Hummingbird, Say's Phoebe, American Golden Plover, Snowy Plover, Dusky Flycatcher, Bank Swallow, Eastern Kingbird, Swainson's Hawk, Brewer's Sparrow, American Three-toed Woodpecker, Sage Thrasher, Bar-tailed Godwit, Northern Mockingbird, and Clay-colored Sparrow, 14! Incredible. And the code 4's: Western Kingbird and Hermit Warbler. A little lopsided, but still, these two are just as exciting.



Dusky Flycatcher
Photo by Ryan Merrill

Now for the details.: The Calliope was seen at 3 Crabs [5.02], when it hovered in front of me for a long time, giving an excellent look-see. Say's Phoebe and American Golden Plover were found by Bob Boekelheide along Graysmarsh beach [5.05] and at 3 Crabs [5.08]. The Snowy Plover was found on the north end of Hobuck Beach at Neah Bay [5.11]. The Dusky Flycatcher was found and seen for a couple days running along the Boom road at Neah Bay [Ryan Merrill, 5.14]. Scott Gremel and Mark Salvadelena, separately but on same day [5.16], found the lone Bank Swallow. Out at Neah Bay in a spate of incredible finds by Ryan Shaw [6.01 & 6.02] were Swainson's Hawk, Eastern Kingbird, Brewer's Sparrow, and Sage Thrasher; and then the Bar-tailed Godwit at 3 Crabs – which continued through June 23. The American Three-toed Woodpecker goes to Scott Atkinson. He saw it back on FS28 Bon Jon Pass [6.01]. And a second one was found out along Obstruction Point at Hurricane Ridge by Jason Berry [6.20].

Adrienne Akmajian found the Mockingbird along Tsoo-Yess river [6.03]. And the last, Clay-colored Sparrow, was found out north of Hobuck CG near the Wa'atch estuary [6.17]. and was seen again [6.19], when not one, but two were found in same area. The Western Kingbird was found not far from, and at the same time as, the Say's Phoebe [Boekelheide, 5.05]. The Hermit Warbler [5.11] also goes to Bob Boekelheide, where he saw it at the old homestead on Palo Alto, MP8.1.



Northern Mockingbird
Photo by Adrienne Akmajian

And now to the lesser ones. On the water, there are a few Brant still hanging out in Dungeness Bay [6.26]. Three Blue-winged Teal [x2M, x1F] have been hanging out at Helen's Pond for over three weeks. A pair of Cinnamon Teal were there also until 6.22. Green-winged Teal, Mallard, Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, and a few Northern Pintail and American Wigeon are still around. On the bays



Bar-tailed Godwit
Photo by Denali Barry

[Makah, Neah, Clallam, Freshwater, Dungeness] and harbors [La Push, Neah Bay, Port Angeles], were the following: Greater Scaup, Surf Scoter, White-winged Scoter, Red-breasted Merganser, Western Grebe [x2, NB, 5.11], Pelagic Cormorant, Cassin's Auklet [x2, La Push, 5.14], Brown Pelican [x3, Cape Flattery, 5.11 / x2, La Push, 6.01/ x1, Carroll Is., 6.06].

(Continued on next page)

Harlequin Happenings

Pelagics were few, but the few are interesting. On an off-shore survey [5.14], Ryan Merrill found Black-footed Albatross [x7], Sooty Shearwater [x185], Pink-footed Shearwater [x18], Leach's Storm Petrel [x1], and Fork-tailed Storm Petrel [x3]. He also found Pacific Loon [x41], Bonaparte's Gull [x14], Sabine's Gull [x27], Artic Tern [x12], Pomarine Jaeger [x1], Cassin's Auklet [x9], Red-necked Phalarope [x29], Red Phalarope [x29], Tufted Puffin [x2], and one lone *Zonotrichia* sparrow flying over water.

Besides species noted above, our other Spring arrivals came in this order: Hammond's Flycatcher [4.24]; Yellow Warbler, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Black-headed Grosbeak, Western Tanager, and Wilson's Warbler all showed up on May 25th. And then came Vaux's Swift [4.29]; MacGillivray's Warbler [4.30]; Warbling Vireo [5.01], Olive-sided Flycatcher [5.03]; Spotted Sandpiper, Vaux's Swift, Yellow-headed Blackbird, [5.05 – Cindy Ashy]; Solitary Sandpiper [5.06]; Willow Flycatcher, Nashville Warbler – Lake Ozette; Wandering Tattler – Shipwreck Point [5.09]; Pectoral Sandpiper, Hermit Warbler, Swainson's Thrush, Pacific Golden Plover [Lucas & Barry], Cassin's Vireo [5.11]; Bullock's Oriole [5.14]; Western Wood Pewee [5.15]; Common Nighthawk [5.17] – this is an extremely early arrival heard at Lake Ozette by Michael Barry. Wilson's Phalarope and Vesper's Sparrow at Neah Bay [5.26] found by Nigel Ball. Long-billed Curlew at 3 Crabs [6.14] was seen by Michael Barry. Heermann's Gulls were found out on Dungeness Spit [6.19] by Mary and Ken Campbell. And lastly, a Red-eyed Vireo was not seen, but heard and recorded out along Physt river [6.23].



Juvenile Golden Eagle
Photo by Dow Lambert

I'll close with this short treatise on the odds and ends of Clallam's birds. Our last Snowy Owl sighting [5.05] was out somewhere west of Kitchen-Dick road. There was a plethora of Golden Eagle sightings from Neah Bay [x3, Nigel Ball, 5.04], Dungeness area [x2, Dow Lambert, 5.08], Wa'atch River valley [x1, Lucas & Barry, 5.10], Hurricane Ridge [x2, Kulkami & Chavan, 5.11], upper Palo Alto [x1, potential – Campbells], and Dungeness [x1, 5.14]. A Pine Grosbeak was found in ONP by Alan Ashley [6.10]. A Green Heron was found in Lincoln Park, P.A., [6.12] by Mark Salvadelena.

And lastly, a most exceptional find: A three-nest, Great Blue Heron rookery has been located in Olympic National Park by Charlie Miller. The site is located in second-growth conifer at an elevation of 2,800 feet. The nests contained half-grown, very active chicks. The nests are approximately six miles from salt water and Dawn Lake a mile downhill – potential food sources. This rookery is not only unique, but possibly the only place in the county that herons are known to nest. The site will be watched and results of the nesting will be shared in future reports.

I would like to close this report by sharing that several months ago I created a web/blog as a resource site to track, note, record, and babble about birds and birding throughout Clallam County. That site can be found at: <clallamcountybirding.com> . And with that: "Good Birding!"

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Web Corner

by Dave Jackson

Denny Van Horn has recently launched a blog on Clallam County Birding at clallamcountybirding.com/. Check it out.



Denny and others are on a quest to identify a record-setting 300 species in our county this year. The total is already near 270, with fall migration still to come. The birds are listed on the blog at clallamcountybirding.com/2013-clallam-county-tally/.

I wrote software to convert that list to a spreadsheet. You can sort the birds by name or the order used in the OPAS checklist, as well as by the date first found this year. To get a copy of the spreadsheet, please email me (djackson@wavecable.com).

In July, 2012, the OPAS Board approved the creation of a new website for our chapter, as well as appointment of a new webmaster. After an enjoyable 8 ½ year run – I am stepping down as webmaster, effective June 30, 2013.

Until the new webmaster is available, all changes on the current website will be posted under OPAS News (www.olympicpeninsulaudubon.org/shell.php?page=news2). As usual, submit a title and accompanying text by email to opasnews@olybird.org, along with requested details for posting the item.

Pateros Hawkfest - Chelan Ridge Hawk Migration Festival 2013

By Richard Scranton, Pateros Hawkfest Director

Pateros, WA (City Park), Saturday, September 14, 2013; 8:00 am – 3:00 p.m.

Join the Methow Valley Ranger District, North Central Washington Audubon Society, and HawkWatch International this fall for the fourth annual Chelan Ridge Hawk Migration Festival! This family event combines free activities in Pateros Memorial Park with trips to the Chelan Ridge site to learn about and celebrate raptors as they journey to winter territories. The festival takes place in Pateros Memorial Park and will have vendors, live raptors, birding field trips and projects for kids. The trip to and from Chelan Ridge lasts 4 hours and includes seeing raptors as they are banded and released. Pre-registration is required. More information and on-line registration will be available beginning June 15th at www.ncwaudubon.org.

SAVE THE DATE:

OPAS 40th Birthday Celebration

Wednesday, September 18

Red Cedar Room, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Center, Blyn

5 p.m.: Hors d'oeuvres Social

5:30 p.m.: Call to Order

6:15 p.m.: Speaker, Dennis Paulson, Director Emeritus of the Slater Museum of Natural History, University of Puget Sound.

As a biologist, one of Dennis Paulson's primary goals has been to blend the science of biology with the study and appreciation of nature. Dennis has written or co-authored over 75 scientific papers and several books, including: *A Guide to Bird Finding in Washington*, *Shorebirds of the Pacific Northwest*, *Shorebirds of North America: The Photographic Guide*, and *Dragonflies and Damselflies of the West*.

While the cost is free, space is limited. RSVP details will follow.



Doing the Endowment Dance

by Sue Chickman, River Center Development Committee

Birder Denny van Horn is famous in these parts for doing a full-body dance when he finds an especially rare bird in Clallam County. Although they were not rare birds, the Dungeness River Audubon Center received TWO very special gifts—in one week—during May. And for that, this writer did a dance (the Twist, actually).

OPAS members Ken and Janie Leuthold donated their 1994 Cadillac DeVille that was in beautiful condition to the River Center's Endowment. Vehicles that the Center accepts are appraised by Wilder Auto Center. If the car is acceptable to Wilder, they'll offer to purchase the car from the car owner. If the owner accepts the offer, Wilder purchases it and the check, payable to the donor, is endorsed over to the Center's Endowment. The donor receives an acknowledgement letter from the Center that can be used for the donor's tax reporting purposes. Because the Leutholds and Wilder Auto Center were so generous, Sue danced.

In the very same week, the Center received another charitable planned gift, when Bob Sheridan and Laura Dubois, members of OPAS and the River Center, donated shares of stock to the Endowment. The shares transfer took place electronically between the donors' broker and the Center's Endowment fund manager Hallett Advisors of Port Angeles.

Here's what the gracious donors said: *"This is a great way to donate to the River Center! The center receives the current value of the stock. We don't have to pay capital gains and we get to deduct the donation on our taxes. It's a win-win-win. And it was an easy transaction."* Again, Sue danced.

If you are considering donating a planned gift to the River Center as your legacy for future generations, please contact Powell Jones, the Center's Director at 360-681-4076.



Photo by Sue Chickman

FREE SEMINAR

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Thursday, July 25th, 2013

4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Dungeness River Audubon Center

at Railroad Bridge Park

2151 West Hendrickson Road, Sequim

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- Estate vs. Legacy Planning
- Basic Planning Documents
- Estate Planning Process
- Doing a Values Exercise

Pre-registration is advised for this FREE program.

To register, contact Sue Chickman
360-477-4123 or organicallysue@olympen.com

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